

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments, which follow, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Official Action of December 8, 2004.

Summary

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected. Claim 9 has been amended. Claim 10 has been cancelled, and Claim 11 has been added. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments.

Claims 9 and 11 are pending following entry of the amendments and consideration of the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9 - 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Oross et al. (US 6,757,002 B1). Pending Claim 9 is directed to an input control system comprising an input pad having a coordinate input portion for inputting data and four push type switches.

Amended Claim 9 now recites that the push-type switches are each independent of the input pad and capable of having an ON state and an OFF state. Amended Claim 9 further recites that "operation data from the input pad and on-off data from each of the four switches are formatted to a data group of 6 or more bytes, and the formatted data group is output."

The claimed feature that the push-type switches are independent of the input pad finds support in the specification. In fact, the four switches of the switch input section 5 can be laid out arbitrarily in the periphery of the input pad 4, e.g., these switches may be aligned on a straight line (see Specification page 7, lines 4 – 7, and Figure 1). In contrast, Oross teaches away from this claimed feature.

In Oross, the touch sensing areas 36/38 are included in the general sensing area 34 and the common active layers 20, and detect the position of a finger when a finger touches the touch sensing areas 36, 38. Oross states that "In a preferred embodiment, common active layers 20 implement both the general touch sensing area 34 and the special touch sensing areas 36, 38. More specifically, the stored computer program (e.g., track pad device driver or system extension) in the host

computing apparatus 12 processes control signals indicative of position in the general area 34 in one manner, and of position in a given special area 36/38 in another manner" (column 6, lines 16 – 23). Thus, in Oross the host computing apparatus differentiates between area 34 inputs and area 36/38 inputs via positional inputs implemented by common active layers 20 (see FIGs. 3 – 8), rather than via inputs originated from independent sources.

In addition, in Oross, a scroll operation is performed by moving a finger on the touch sensing area 36. As such, in order to scroll by a large area or through a relatively long list of items, the user may have to move the finger a number of times on area 36. In contrast, as claimed each of the four switches comprise a scroll-up operation, and a scroll-down operation, respectively, when each of the four switches is switched to an ON state, i.e. no repetitive movements of the finger are needed.

In regard to the claimed data formatting feature, Oross is silent about the formatting the operation data originating from the input data and ON/OFF data from each of the push-type switches. In contrast, in the claimed feature operation data from the input pad and on-off data from each of the four switches are formatted to a data group of 6 or more bytes.

In regard to new Claim 11, a distinguishable feature is that at least one switch has a scroll function. This at least one switch continuously performs a scrolling operation, independently of an operation of the input pad, while pressed so as to continuously output ON data. This at least one switch stops the scroll operation when released so as to output OFF data. This distinguishable feature is not taught or disclosed by Oross.

For at least one of the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 9 and 11 are allowable, and respectfully request that the claim rejections pursuant to under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration of this application. If, there are additional fees due, Applicant requests that this paper constitutes any necessary petition and authorizes

the Commissioner to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment, to
Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

If the examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues which may be
resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the
undersigned at the below listed number

Respectfully submitted,
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